

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-02 EUR-12
/119 W

-----005885 151342Z /40

R 131641Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8438
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2981

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, SL
SUBJECT: 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: US STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 225331

SUMMARY: EMBOFF MET WITH VICTOR SUMNER, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MFA, TO DISCUSS 33RD UNGA. SMNER SAID AFRICANS STILL PREOCCUPIED WITH COLONIAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA AND HE WARNED THAT FAILURE TO INCLUDE WALVIS BAY IN NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE PACKAGE COULD LEAD TO REJECTION OF SETTLEMENT BY MANY BLACK AFRICAN STATES. HE EXPRESSED IMPATIENCE ON RHODESIAN PROGRESS AND SKEPTICISM USG WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO PRESSURE SAG ON APARTHEID. HE BELIEVED CYPRUS WOULD NOT BECOME ACRIMONIOUS ISSUE IN THIS SESSION, BUT PREDICTED G-77 WOULD REACT TO COLLAPSE OF COW MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON VICTOR SUMNER, SPERMSEC, MFA, ONE SEPTEMBER 13 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON 33RD UNGA AND TO PRESENT TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL ON ALL SUBJECT EXCEPT COW, PUERTO RICO, COMMON FUND, DEBT AND KOREA. ALSO INCORPORATED WAS TALKING POINT ON ANTI-TERRORISM DERIVED FROM STATE
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2. SUMNER'S COMMENTS PREDICTABLY CENTERED ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA. HE EMPHASIZED IMPERATIVE THAT WALVIS BAY BE INCORPORATED INTO NAMIBIAN TERRITORY AND NEED FOR REMOVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM TERRITORY PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID BLACK AFRICANS DO

NOT TRUST SOUTH AFRICA TO ABIDE BY ANY INTERNATIONAL COURT'S JUDGMENT ON WALVIS BAY AND WITHOUT A PORT NAMIBIA WOULD NOT BE VIABLE. HE TWICE STATED THAT MANY BLACK AFRICAN STATES WERE SO PERSUADED ON THIS POINT THAT THEY WERE NOW DISPOSED NOT TO ACCEPT NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE UNLESS WALVIS BAY WAS PORT OF THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE.

3. HE EXPRESSED GROWING IMPATIENCE WITH EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT BUT WHEN PRESSED TO IDENTIFY FURTHER STEPS USG COULD TAKE, HE COULD OFFER NO SUGGESTIONS. HE REITERATED GOSL SUPPORT FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND FOR ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT USG WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO PRESSURE SOUTH AFRICA TO END APARTHEID. DESPTIE OUR REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO USG INFLUENCE ON SAG, SUMNER CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT USG AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS MUST RESTRICT NEW INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO SHOW SINCERITY IN ENDING APARTHEID. SUMNER DID NOT BELIEVE CYPRUS NOW STIRRED SUFFICIENT INTEREST AMONG THE LDC'S TO LEAD TO PROTRACTED DEBATE. HE FELT BRITAIN WOULD TAKE THE LEAD ON A CYPRUS DEBATE AND THAT OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WOULD LEND MORAL SUPPORT, BUT LITTLE MORE.

4. SUMNER SAID GOSL SUPPORTED WESTERN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE BROADER ANTI-TERRORISM CONSENSUS AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH HAS SO INFORMED FRG CHARGE. (FREETOWN 2789). HE WAS SILENT
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ON MIDEAST ISSUES, BUT HE PREVIOUSLY HAD STATED THAT ANY AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH EHYPT AND ISRAEL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOSL. HE ALSO WAS SILENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUDGET, MANAGEMENT AND UN REFORM ISSUES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE BELIEVED GOSL WOULD SUPPORT FINANCING OF UNTAG WITHIN REGULAR 78-79 BUDGET BY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.

5. SUMNER PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE REACTION BY GROUP OF 77 IN UNGA TO COLLAPSE OF COW MEETING, BUT HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT FORM THIS REACTION WOULD TAKE AND WAS UNWILLING TO HAZARD A GUESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978FREETO02981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780376-0020
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780973/aaaacier.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fbd3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 225331
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1457084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: US STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES
TAGS: PORG, SL, US, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fbd3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014